



(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

Remembering MLK Jr.

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, deputy commanding general of support for Multi-National Division-Baghdad, speaks to Soldiers during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration, while a portrait of King hangs in front of the crowd at the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel on Camp Liberty, Iraq Jan. 15. See story page 4.

Life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. honored

By Sgt. Lance Wail
2-1 Inf. Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq-"A day on, not a day off - it not only causes us to reflect, to remember, and to honor Dr. King for his many accomplishments, but it reminds us that the struggle still continues today."

Those are the words of Sgt. Maj. Rodney Gilchrist, the command paralegal noncommissioned officer for Multi-

National Division - Baghdad, and keynote speaker for a service celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life at the Engineer Chapel her Jan. 15.

"There have been enormous strides made in the areas of civil rights and equality for minorities," Gilchrist said. "We still have a long, long ways to go, even in America."

He drew in the audience by explaining that what we are doing here in Iraq is helping with the dream of working together to

better humanity. Our sacrifices and effort in helping people in this country, with differing racial and ethnic backgrounds, is exactly what we are doing here.

"Although you might not be able to fully enjoy it here, you still have reason to stop, to remember, and to celebrate what Dr. King and his dream stood for," Gilchrist said, pointing out troops in the

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(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

"On your mark, get set..."

Soldiers ready themselves at the starting line for a two-mile fun run before the sun rises in front of the Scorpion Morale Welfare and Recreation Center Jan. 15, at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The run was held to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. King's birthday is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January to honor the late civil rights leader. It became a federal holiday in 1986.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

shaahid

**Defined:
witness**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 56
Low: 37



Tomorrow

High: 58
Low: 36



Saturday

High: 60
Low: 39

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Baghdad in Brief

Soldiers looking for U.S. citizenship encouraged to visit local legal offices

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Some Soldiers believing they have already applied for U.S. citizenship may not have been processed, according to the Multi-National Division - Baghdad's legal office.

"(It's an) issue which could be affecting a number of our Soldiers who applied for citizenship back in the States," said Capt. Robert Michaels, a legal assistance attorney with the legal office. According to Michaels, military specialists at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and a number of locations back in the states have had problems sending and submitting citizenship packets for Soldiers. He said Soldiers who processed citizenship packets through Fort Jackson had been affected the most by this problem.

"This means that some Soldiers may think that they have applied already, but USCIS may never have received their application," Michaels said. But, the lawyer added there is an easy fix to the problem.

"They can stop by their legal assistance office and give us their alien number, and we can submit it to our liaison officer," Michaels said. "He will run the number and see if their application is in the system. If it isn't, we can resubmit the paperwork from here."



(US Army photo by Sgt. Lance Wail, 2-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Maj. Rodney Gilchrist, a command paralegal for Multi-National Division - Baghdad, gives the keynote address at a commemorative service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Engineer Chapel on Camp Liberty, Iraq Jan. 15. During his speech, Gilchrist challenged the Soldiers in attendance to be the ones who make a difference in the world today.

Soldiers reflect on King's impact in life

MLK

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front row at the event.

"(Today we) sit in the in the same room, or even at the same table, but (this) does not mean we are engaged in effective dialog," Gilchrist continued. He described how the situation in Iraq is in some ways similar to times during Dr. King's lifetime.

"In order to keep on, we need to do what Dr. King did, first and foremost: have faith," he said. "Dr. King was first, and foremost, a man of faith; a deep abiding faith. It was his faith in God that pushed him to believe that good, not only could, but would always eventually overcome evil."

Troops in attendance reflected on Dr. King's teachings.

"I used to learn [about Dr. King's struggle] in history class in school. To learn more now was motivating, I was captivated during the whole speech," said Pfc. Johnny Gasaway, a member of

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment from Angleton, Texas.

He said he left with new understanding and that the style was a "unique way of preaching."

Spc. Roberta Lathan said she enjoyed the service, and found it made her want to start going to church more. Lathan, who calls Miami, Fla. home, is assigned to Company C, 101 Military Intelligence Battalion. She said Gilchrist's speech was spiritually moving and motivating.

"The presentation was great," agreed Spc. Courtney Tyus, a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Selma, Ala.. "It helped me to become more open, and to recognize that racism has greatly improved but is still there."

At the end of the service, Gilchrist asked that instead of resting on what others have done in the past, Soldiers should step up and makes a difference today.

Even the smallest things make a difference, he said.



(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

Soldiers perform a skit teaching tolerance for all races and religions during the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel on Camp Liberty, Iraq Jan. 15.

Troops at Camp Liberty remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s lessons

**By Pfc. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD**

CAMPLIBERTY, Iraq - "A day on, not a day off" was the motto as Soldiers celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with a morning fun run and a ceremony in the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel here Jan. 15.

The activities started with a morning two-mile run beginning at 6 a.m. and ended with a ceremony to honor Dr. King featuring guest speaker Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, deputy commanding general of support for Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Dozens of troops met at the Scorpion Moral Welfare and Recreational Center where the race began. They stretched in the cool winter morning air, as the 1st Cavalry Division Band helped begin the race by playing numbers for the Soldiers at the starting line.

Prizes, including hats and T-shirts,

were given for first place winners in the male and female run category as well as male and female walkers.

Later in the evening, the birthday observance moved to the chapel.

Troops from all services were in attendance for the celebration ceremony to honor former civil rights leader Dr. King's birth and legacy.

During the ceremony, MND-B Soldiers stood and recited the "I Have a Dream" speech given by Dr. King as he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 28, 1963.

The featured speaker of the ceremony, Brooks began his reflections noting this was a great opportunity to have an occasion to celebrate the life of Dr. King. He also said this was not a memorial service, but rather a celebration.

During the speech, Brooks spoke of how he was influenced as a child by the teachings of Dr. King.

Brooks also shared observations of

how we can apply Dr. King's hopes and dreams for a peaceful society to our everyday lives.

"Let's take his inspiration into our hearts and guide ourselves by the principles Dr. King spoke of," said Brooks.

Brooks also drew parallels between Dr. King's fight for civil rights and the fight service members are involved in today. He said while Dr. King may not agree with the war, he would be very proud of all of those serving their country.

In his closing remarks, Brooks noted we have much to impart to the world. He said we cannot take for granted where we have come from, but to recognize how far we have come as Americans.

"My challenge to each one of you today", Brooks said as he closed his speech, "is to take into due consideration what Dr. King talked about. Be patient with the struggle for change, be persistent with the fight for justice, and don't ever give up."

Camp Taji observes Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday

By Sgt. Robert Strain
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Hundreds of Soldiers came to the Ministry Center Jan. 15 for the 1st Cavalry Division's observance ceremony of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth-

day.

King, a civil rights leader who fought for equality of all people, regardless of race, advocated using non-violent means to further his cause. He was arrested nearly 20 times and awarded five honorary degrees. King also became the

youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

He was assassinated in 1968 outside his motel room in Memphis, Tenn.

The observance of his birthday was hosted by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade's 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, and included a video of King's "I have a dream" speech given in 1963.

"Today, while we are ensuring that our freedoms and our way of life remain protected, it is important to take time out and reflect upon the reasons for which we fight," said Lt. Col. Christopher Walach, the commander of the 1-227th.

The observance of King's birthday provides that opportunity to pause and reflect on not only a great leader, but also the men and women who are doing their duty to protect those freedoms, Walach, a native of Las Vegas, said.

"The celebration has always been listed as a day on, not a day off. The meaning of that, of course, is that there is yet work to be done," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the division's deputy commanding general - support, and the ceremo-

ny's guest speaker.

Although King was against using violence to solve problems, he believed that injustice anywhere would prevent justice everywhere, said Brooks.

"I happen to believe that Dr. King would applaud each of us for standing up against injustice, even if he didn't agree with the method," Brooks said during his speech.

For Spc. Brendon McGee, an aviation operations specialist with the 1-227th, it's a day of remembrance of the struggle for equality of all people, regardless of race, or creed.

"It's still a continuous struggle - just because we have those civil rights in the United States, there's other people across the world that are not enjoying those freedoms," said McGee, a Memphis native.

"While much has been done and much gained, much has yet to be done and much is left ungained," Brooks said. "The challenge for each and every one of us, as individuals and as a collective body, the challenge is for us to carry it on, carry on that dream and make it a reality in our time."



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Robert Strain, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Brigadier Gen. Vincent Brooks, the 1st Cavalry Division's deputy commanding general - support, speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance hosted by the 1st ACB at Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 15.

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
AFN sports	Inside the NBA		Sports Center		Sports Center		ESPNews
AFN prime ATLANTIC	Prime News Tonight		NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Sesame Street		The View
AFN news	Special Report with Brit Hume		Your World with neil Cavuto		World News Now		ATIS/Regional News